KARE-TV-35W BRIDGE COLLAPSE -6:26 P.M -8:34 P.M (8-1-2007)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3TNGZvfxPM (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3TNGZvfxPM)

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From Wednesday, August 1st, 2007 KARE-TV (NBC) Live coverage of the I-35W Bridge collapse over the Mississippi river in Minneapolis, MN

- The Collapse occurred at 6:05 P.M, injuring 145 people and killing 13.
- Coverage runs from 6:26 P.M - 8:34 P.M

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live to minneapolis now there has been a bridge collapse of 35 w bridge joe fryer is live at the scene with more joe what is going on well julie we are at a way where we can't get a great perfect look at what's happening but a witness described it to me best we see a lot of black smoke billowing from the bridge it is an entire bridge collapse here the 35w bridge over the mississippi river one witness describes it to me at the center the center of the bridge over the river gave in and went down all the way down into the water and thus both sides the north side the south side or maybe more west and east here then caved down so the image is basically that the bridge is going normal and then all of a sudden quickly angles down angles down into the water where the center part then went underneath the water witnesses tell us that there were a number of cars on the bridge some sitting at an angle on the bridge but others did go into the water at this point we don't know how many cars went into the water we don't know how many people may still be in the water there are emergency crews everywhere on the scene fire trucks police unlike anything i have ever seen before trying to keep people away from the scene to make sure nothing more happens to anyone but of course most of all we have to assume trying to rescue and help the people in the water around me here just a little ways away we see people on the ground being attended to after some form of injury or something we don't know if they were involved if their cars were were involved in the accident or what exactly happened one person tells me there was a school bus a school bus that was a part of this but as far as he could tell everyone got off the bus okay because they weren't in the center of the bridge where all of this seemed to happen so again we're just getting on the scene what we can tell you is mass chaos police fire ambulances everywhere black smoke and fire billowing from the bridge at a part where it broke and from what we understand the center of the bridge completely collapsing and falling into the water with several

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and falling into the water with several cars on the bridge at that time joe i know it's early and as our viewers are taking a look at the scene right now with that black smoke billowing have you heard anything as to what may have caused uh that bridge to collapse was there an explosion or an accident on the bridge of any kind not that we've heard about yet but i've only spoken with one or two people who were saw it happen they didn't describe anything like that they just saw it give him so this point we we cannot say what is exactly responsible for it and you have any idea what time this happened was it minutes ago was it it sounds like it happened shortly after six o'clock from what i've been hearing reports maybe about five after six is when the first report of this started to come across so we're hearing about a few minutes after six o'clock is when this

happened obviously that's during a key part of rush hour so a number of cars on the road at that time and you're standing where joe i'm standing kind of just to the north and west of where this bridge collapse would have happened so i'm at the corner of river parkway and uh a little bit away from chicago i guess i'd say so it's near center point energy facility uh 1240 west river parkway looking up right now that's the address i'm standing outside of right now we're seeing also a semi that looks to be at the top of our screen i know joe you're unable to see a signal and see the image that we're seeing right now but as far as the type of traffic that typically moves through there with the university close by um is it heavily industrial traffic as well do we have to be concerned at all that there may be some trucks carrying some chemicals as we look at that semi up there you know i i can't see from my angle what it is that's on fire i can't quite tell if it's a vehicle that might be carrying some sort of industrial or whether it's just the the bridge or something else on the bridge it's hard to tell from the vantage point that i'm at but it's certainly very possible that uh something carrying like that is on the bridge i just can't tell from my vantage point i mean it's a horrifying thing to happen at any time of day but six o'clock obviously right in the middle of rush hour as people are heading home once again we want to show you the map where this bridge collapsed

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where this bridge collapsed as all of us know just a heavy heavy traffic flow most times the day especially during rush hour right now joe you said you can see them actively several rescue crews on the scene yeah there's rescue crews all over just from where we're standing we have to presume from every angle of this they are attacking this we have to assume you know again i'm probably on the northwest side of it we have to presume you know this is affecting all sides of the river this happened on both sides of the bridge in each direction so we have to assume that crews are on every corner northwest southwest northeast southeast trying to help all the people who are involved in this right now i'm looking and i'm seeing a man slowly being carted off it looks like his shirt may not be on and a police officer went into the water and how many people have been affected by this we do expect of course that mndot will give us an idea of the age of this bridge and we've been talking on and off for several weeks now about the aging infrastructure many of the nation's bigger cities and that certainly could play a role in what's happened here also a possibility that perhaps an accident triggered what you're witnessing right now but our joe fryer says he's along the northwest side of the mississippi river and he's taking a look at the situation from his vantage point talking to some folks on the scene joe you had given us an update a moment ago on uh some of the injuries that you're witnessing and that are being reported what is the latest as far as a rescue personnel helicopters and evacuation teams you know mike it's very clear that everyone who can help is trying to help here we see a man who is uh ribs are wrapped he is slowly walking thankfully on his own and being assisted by another person i can't tell if it's an officer or medical personnel or just a good samaritan but what we also saw was this woman she was being carried by a police officer she was wearing a neck brace she appeared to be awake but she was basically being carried up by a police officer and loaded into an ambulance from whatever injuries it was she suffered and what happened here so just where we're standing in the last minute we've seen a couple people

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minute we've seen a couple people injured but awake being brought up and being attended to here in the position where we are and again we are about 1200 block of west river parkway just on the northwest side of where this bridge collapsed well this is just an unbelievable scene for all of us who have traveled this bridge which i'm sure is everyone watching we have a different view of the scene right there you can see that bridge just collapsed right into the water that is just horrifying and right now obviously crews are trying to figure out who may be in the water and that is a massive rescue effort underway you can see some emergency vehicles on the scene there joe i know as you take a look at this scene were you able to see any construction barricades or pylons or anything to indicate that perhaps any work had been done here recently we are not close enough at this point to be able to see that you have to understand in our vantage point there's a lot of trees and high grass that are blocking our view of the river where this actually went in so at this point and i'm not familiar enough with whether there was construction at this bridge at this time we hear a lot of yelling there behind you and some sirens uh is that an indication to us that it is a uh chaotic scene that those are

witnesses or people involved in the wreck that we hear yelling are those emergency personnel yelling direction and order between them there are so many people here right now people who witness to people who are just witnessing it now uh who are here you can see the cell phones out this is part of what happens nowadays when these things happen everyone in a sense becomes a journalist or recorder of some point they um are you know using their phones i think there's many of them are checking with their friends text messaging making sure that no one they know was involved in this but also recording it themselves all along another bridge actually uh excuse me a parking ramp actually just up above we can see a number of people overlooking it from there um and meanwhile police are trying to control the crowd because you have to understand emergency crews are trying to get through here trying to get people out the more police they can have here the better to try and help and control the

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to try and help and control the situation to make sure no one else gets injured at first when we arrived on the scene we were pretty close the police pushed us back and right now i can tell you another police officer is putting up tape to keep us even farther back they don't want us to be too close to this because of the fact the smoke is going to be billowing possibly in this direction and just to make sure that nothing else happens from here on out it's hard their job is to try and not only save the people who have been injured by this accident but also to make sure no one else is injured unnecessarily joe is there anyone standing by that you could uh find that we could talk to who might have seen this happen i have no idea what your scene is like there if there are people kind of milling about or if those who are around are pretty active and and frantic trying to get help there are plenty of people and i will if you give me a few seconds here i'll look around and see if i can try and find some folks to talk with right now okay well by a couple of moments as you continue to take a look at now the map of the scene that uh has become an issue here in the last hour or so the collapse of that bridge there 35 w in minneapolis is quite a situation as you'd imagine the height of rush hour students as well in the area near the university of minnesota campus and traffic has uh been closed obviously in both directions a number of injuries as joe has reported and it looked like the the bridge collapsed into the water and also on top of a highway underneath so um you know it is it is pretty staggering to think when a bridge collapses that is that busy at six o'clock at night uh what rescue crews will be dealing with here in the mississippi river and also along the roadway underneath where that bridge collapse looks like a very large section of that bridge went down and what may be an issue here for folks as well who are down in this scene is if you can take a look they're about the middle of your screen there appears to be a barge we don't know from the angle we're seeing here that the bridge may have in fact fallen on that barge we don't know that to be the case at all but there may be personnel on that as well so that's another thing that rescuers are going to have to deal with you've got the drivers and anybody who might have been walking along the area anybody who might have been near the

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anybody who might have been near the water line there on the ground below and of course now this barge appears to be entering into the equation to some extent and you can see that black smoke uh billowing from the scene as joe fryer referenced it appears that is some sort of semi and some cars that are on fire and obviously that creates problems of its own with air quality and problems for those who are in the area we're not sure of course it's a tractor trailer apparently that is is burning which creates other problems as well but you can clearly see that smoke still billowing from the scene one thing that the smoke can tell us is by its dark nature that that fire is still highly active typically when the emergency crews begin watering fires like this as the smoke there toward the top of your screen begins to turn whiter or lighter in color and gray that usually is an indication that the fire is slowly becoming a little more under control but it's heavily dark there toward the middle to the bottom of your screen as well let's head back to joe fryer now joe uh what's what's going on on your end hi julie can you guys hear me yes we can we're with gary babino who is on the bridge gary what can you tell us what's happening when you were on there um it was uh bumper to bumper traffic probably 10 15 miles an hour and uh the road construction was slowing everything up and it just completely gave way the whole bridge from uh one side of the mississippi to the other just completely gave away fell all the way down

um i probably had a 30 35 foot free fall and uh there there's cars in the water there's cars on fire uh the whole bridge is down and uh there's a school bus right next to me we actually had to get we had to carry all the kids off of the bridge find a safe place to get them off get them off and it it it's just incredible i cannot believe that i'm even talking right now um before it happened right before it happened or they have to get questions what's that joe can you hear us i can't hear what you're saying okay joe from gary

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from gary can you guys still hear us yeah i can hear you joe he just broke up the last thing he was saying we had a hard time hearing away gary right before it happened were you what exactly did you feel wow we're having a hard time you know a huge jackhammer the whole bridge was shaking and then it completely gave out it didn't go it completely fell and uh it hit hard any idea how many people were in the water how many cars well it was bumper to bumper so i'm i don't know i'd say maybe 75 to 100 cars on the bridge that fell and uh or maybe more it's a long bridge but uh it was comfortable but there's definitely a lot of cars on that bridge how did you get out yourself did you get rescued or did someone help you i got out right away um i my my door would open and i uh the bridge was at such an incline we had to kind of scale up the bridge and there were a couple cars that were uh kind of sliding down you know screeching because it was such an incline we had to climb up the bridge and find somewhere to safely jump off because the bridge was no longer connected at all so looking around you did it look like people were getting out on their own or were there people that still needed help what did you see around you um there was a lot of dust i couldn't see i couldn't see much for the first uh probably a minute minute and a half and then uh i i realized that the school bus was neck right next to me and me and a couple other other guys went over and uh started lifting the kids off the bridge they were yelling screaming bleeding um i think there was some broken bones good how are you doing right now gary i'm i'm doing good i i have a small cut from hitting the steering wheel thank god i was wearing my seat belt because i don't know what that was what would happen because i hit hard i i feel where my seatbelt was you know kind of like a a bruise but uh my back my back really hurts from the actual time that we actually hit all right gary babineau thank you so much gary was in there on the bridge when this happened and uh mike and julie will send it back to you

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mike and julie will send it back to you guys just unbelievable thank you so much joe we'll check back in a bit gary uh understandably shaken there he's talking about what had happened for him as he was on that bridge and was able to get out of his car and uh and you know obviously get out of the way of get out of harm's way but had a chance to see just everything that's been going on there and joining us now on the phone with the minneapolis police department is amelia huffman and appreciate you taking a few moments to get us up to speed if you would let us know right now where things stand and what exactly happened today well i don't have too much information for you at this point uh our information dispatch was received just a short time ago that the bridge had collapsed and that there were cars in the water we have personnel at the scene now for the rescue operation and we'll keep you updated throughout the night any idea if there was construction going on we just heard from an eyewitness who said there was some kind of jackhammer that was being used and all of a sudden the bridge just completely collapsed do you have any idea yet it's not clear at this point what caused the collapse okay lieutenant you talked about having resources there on the scene is the department uh prepared to handle something like this and when you say resources how many officers are specifically assigned to something like this well i'll tell you we'll use all the resources that we have available in the city which is quite substantial and we'll work in cooperation with our partners at the hennepin county sheriff's department minneapolis fire department and other neighboring agencies if need be when you're working an emergency situation like this is this something you practice for in as much as communication between the various agencies we do work with the neighboring agencies on a variety of emergency preparedness plans and drills both sort of theoretical tabletop exercises and in the field and communications is one of those issues that certainly we anticipate having the need for interoperability which is the ability to talk to people in other agencies have you ever seen anything even remotely like this

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seen anything even remotely like this before no i have never seen anything remotely like this before what are your officers in the field reporting to you right now as far as conditions for them to be able to go in there and help people well we'll have to keep you updated on that as uh as time goes on because at this point all of our efforts are are focused on the operation and uh you know not much in terms of communicating back regarding what people are seeing or how people are feeling quite yet lieutenant are you uh anywhere close to the scene currently i am not currently at the scene but we certainly do have people there now and those folks will be in contact with you throughout the night okay all right we appreciate your time and good luck tonight thank you very much for joining us thank you good night if we could check back in with joe fryer he is on the scene right now and just spoke with a a gentleman who was in what he said bumper to bumper traffic just after six o'clock tonight he said traffic was moving at about 10 to 15 miles an hour and a jackhammer appeared to be shaking the bridge or at least that was his perception when all of a sudden the entire bridge completely gave way and he said he did believe there had to be about a hundred cars because it was bumper to bumper traffic joe uh have you talked with anyone else uh no in fact police are pushing us farther and farther and farther back because they don't want anyone else to get injured a lot of people close to the scene everyone's on their phones in fact it's hard to even get a cell phone signal out of here but they're pushing people back to try and keep everyone safe at this time so we can see even less from the vantage point that we're at right now but as i mentioned earlier what we saw at the time was a couple people within uh about maybe 15-20 minutes after this happened being brought up carried up a hill one guy appeared to have a cut some bruises around his ribs another woman was being carried carried by a police officer and was still wearing a neck brace at

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and was still wearing a neck brace at the time and police just continue to whip out the police tape and try and set up as much as possible around this giant area to try and keep people as far back as possible and that's probably the best thing they can do right now so they can concentrate on the rescue effort assuming that's what's still going on at this point or helping anyone else in the area okay joe at the risk of being redundant it is now a quarter of seven in the evening and many folks just getting home from their whereabouts for the day so it's worth certainly a recap of what's going on i just would like if you would take a moment again and walk us through the chronology of the events that have unfolded here in the last hour or so joe from what we understand and the initial report i heard came just a little bit after six maybe about five minutes after six o'clock so in the heart of rush hour traffic we're told was a bumper to bumper on the 35w bridge in both directions once a man says they were maybe going around 10 miles an hour at the time so that gives you an idea that the bridge was packed at the time all of a sudden one guy says he felt sounded like a jackhammer tremors underneath him and then all of a sudden it gave him he feels he dropped however high the bridge is maybe about 35 40 feet down below and into the water certainly quite a jolt but he was able to to uh take care of himself he was wearing his seat belt which he says was fortunate he was able to get out of the vehicle himself and help a school bus which was right next to him a school bus filled with children he was able to help them he says he saw a variety of injuries on that school bus it happened with traffic in both directions this is a complete bridge collapse what exactly happened is unclear but we do know there was construction going on people say they saw construction crews and barricades so we do know not to imply that this is responsible for it but we do know that there was some construction going on in this area when uh this accident happened uh what exactly caused of course is unclear and i'm sure it will be days if not weeks before we get a good answer as to what exactly happened the main effort right now is to try and get everyone out of the water rescue as many people as possible and hopefully that's something that's already happened

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already happened uh it's hard to estimate how many cars were involved in this perhaps dozens perhaps even up to a hundred yeah well that when it's bumper to bumper traffic right at six o'clock uh the scariest thing i guess he must have felt uh gary the gentleman you spoke to like one of the lucky ones he at least was still on a part of the bridge that you could get out of your car and walk up to safety a lot of those people who ended up in the water i'm sure is who were most concerned about tonight and i'm sure the rescue crews trying to get to them but logistically this is also going to be a nightmare just getting to that scene to try to help and what i'm not aware of at that point is how deep the river is at that point and clearly that plays a key role for those who actually went into the center and the way it was described to me was that basically the center gave in that went down and therefore on both sides of the bridge it kind of angled downward as you've probably seen so some people might have still been at enough at an angle where they could get out themselves but others were farther down and maybe into the water or close to the water certainly the focus joe is on anybody who is involved whether on foot or in a car in the rescue efforts there but as we continue to show our live picture of the scene we're noticing too that the smoke is beginning to turn a little more gray a little more white over the last few minutes here which perhaps is an indication that they've got this fire under control have you heard from any officials joe as you continue to work that scene about the concerns perhaps about air quality for others in that area that was the first reason they backed us off in the first place and that's when we were getting pretty close to the river when we first arrived on the scene the main reason that the police officer was trying to back us up was because he was afraid to smoke which was very black at that point was going to start walking in our direction so that's the main reason he was trying to back us off now it appears you're right the smoke is a far more gray white less toxic looking smoke but i think they're just trying to get people back to try and clear the scene there were so many people

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people so close to what happened it had to have been very difficult uh rescue people for firefighters for paramedics for police to try and control the situation and and really get a good look at who needed help i mean mixed in within all the people you saw laying on the ground one woman who was clearly injured i didn't appear seriously but clearly needed some sort of attention and she was just in the middle of all the witnesses who were standing around so uh you know clearing out the space certainly is uh helpful in that regard okay joe we are going to continue to work the scene for us and we're going to let you go for just a couple of moments thank you for the update uh certainly heartbreaking for anyone waiting for a loved one to get home that takes this route it is a scary unbelievable scene right now 35 w bridge over the mississippi has collapsed we have trisha volpe on the phone now who is outside of hcmc what's it like there tricia well i'm not sure if you can hear in the background there have been several ambulances sirens on of course the lights on all around this building here just in the last five or ten minutes that i've been here i'm at uh park and eighth right now in downtown minneapolis just outside of hcmc and i just spoke to an hcmc official just a couple of minutes ago and she said indeed uh depending on the number of patients certainly several will be brought here because this is a trauma center but depending on the number if there's a large number of patients that will also be sent to uh to other hospitals in the area they'll be triaged hcmc at this point is considering this a disaster situation they don't know at this point though how many patients will be brought here again several will be taken to other hospitals but even as i'm standing here you can see several ambulances have gone by and they'll be dropping people off here they'll be leaving and and certainly they've sent as many resources as possible out to the scene to be able to help in any way they can the more ambulances out there the more medical personnel out there the better they can get them back here to the trauma center where folks can be treated quickly do those ambulances appear to be coming in in a controlled manner or does the situation at hcmc

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the situation at hcmc appear at all chaotic no at this point everything is very controlled out here i mean you know the ambulance goes by they've got the lights on they've got the siren uh blaring and of course people will pull people will be pulling over and there isn't really any chaos here at all they're just kind of coming in coming out not clear whether there are patients in there not clear if these are just ambulances being

dispatched out to the scene at this point but certainly everything seems to be in in good order i'm also told uh by the official here at hcmc that we are going to be getting regular updates once they have a handle on the situation once they they figure out exactly uh what has happened here what role hcmc is going to be playing uh they're going to be giving us regular updates throughout the evening yeah have they given you trisha a time yet is the one we can expect that first update uh probably i would say if i were to guess at this point it would be within the hour uh the person who i spoke to the person who's in charge of setting all of that up she was actually at home and and she is on route here right now so she herself uh the person who who kind of gathers information and and gives it to us as members of the media she herself is trying to get a handle on the situation and she said that she should be out here within just a few minutes all right trisha we will check back thank you so much and we want to update those of you who are just arriving home from work what you're looking at right now is a live scene 35w in both directions collapsed shortly after six o'clock today a large section of that bridge simply fell to the ground eyewitnesses are saying at the time there was bumper to bumper traffic and apparently witnesses believe that there was road construction going on we have no idea if that played a role in this bridge collapse or not we spoke with one gentleman earlier on the phone who said he just fell 35 feet in a free fall and near him right behind him was a school bus that particular bus they were able to carry all of the children off of the bus some of whom had injuries but obviously thankful that they were on the particular section they were on and not farther in because a large

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a large section of that bridge simply went into the water also a fair amount of semi traffic construction vehicle traffic which we are told may account in part anyway for the smoke you see there at the center top of your screen there was a fire there much earlier that really was really blazing for a bit there the smoke heavy and black for a time it appears now to be somewhat under control we also spoke with lieutenant amelia huffman with the minneapolis police department not too long ago who had told us that they have many crews on the scene obviously they're going to allocate whoever they can it's tough to get officers who are working all over the city to a scene like this because while they're trying to get in a lot of the emergency personnel are trying to get out and get some of those folks out to hospitals and obviously right now we have no idea how many people have been affected by this accident we know a lot of you are at home right now waiting for your loved ones to arrive home this is obviously a heavily traveled route and this was right after rush hour we have a scene at a crew rather at hcmc that we will be checking in with frequently i'm sure many of the hospitals regions there's another trauma center that will be responding to this accident but right now logistically it's just getting there and trying to find out how many people need help getting to those people and getting them out of the area joe fryer's been on the scene he said it was fairly chaotic the police are moving him back because of those fumes that were coming off the bridge but what he saw were several people walking up away from the banks of the river and trying to get away from the scene if possible many of whom had injuries and it was a pretty chaotic scene from river parkway where he was situated interesting to note too as we continue on this live picture you don't see any air rescue personnel going down in this area could be any number of reasons for that it may be just that the shot that we're holding is a little too tight and perhaps they're working outside the perimeter of that shot but if you look deep into the picture you can see all of the lights and occasionally you hear the sirens as we go to joe fryer

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sirens as we go to joe fryer for further updates throughout the evening and trisha volpe over at hcmc understand too that there is a highly coordinated effort with all of the emergency agencies through something like that so the police are working closely with the fire departments and all of the rescue personnel and they're doing their best you can be assured to get those folks out of there yes and we were talking obviously summer is a heavy construction time we do not know what caused this bridge to collapse but uh the gentleman we spoke to earlier said that there was construction actively going on and was uh saying maybe that's why traffic was already bumper-to-bumper before this bridge collapsed he said some kind of jackhammer was being used when all of a sudden the bridge just completely gave way in both directions and he'd like i said said traffic was bumper to bumper at the time so crews are there right now trying to figure out

we're sure how many people have been injured how many people may still be in the water after this collapse folks familiar with this route know that the footings of that bridge are rather substantial in size and it may be as julia had mentioned there perhaps an issue of construction that's not for us to say for sure at this point we do expect to hear from mndot here shortly on something like this but it may also be in fact that there may have been some type of accident or explosion that led to a weakening of the structure and the integrity of that bridge which we're going to talk about at length when we get that opportunity with somebody from the department of transportation also we had talked a bit about barge perhaps being in this area it's still evidently there given the live picture that we're able to assess right now we don't know how that factors in here at all we don't know if anybody was on that barge we don't know if the bridge is in fact on top of it we do have sky 11 heading out to that scene and all of our crews now scrambling for coverage of this story which seemed to develop right around rush hour today and we just got word that the state patrol is setting up an area for a command post right at that site all they're saying at this point obviously this

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saying at this point obviously this this uh there we have some live pictures from sky 11 on its way to this bridge collapse so we'll be watching that as as we understand the state patrol is setting up a command post to answer questions traffic is being stopped at university avenue from the north and washington avenue from the south and we should be getting an update here from the state patrol shortly we know a lot of you are watching this with anxious hearts because you're waiting for your loved ones to get home we will bring you information from the state patrol as soon as we get it including who you should be calling who you can be contacting to try to figure out you know how to find your loved ones if in fact you are looking for them after this accident we know that cars were bumper-to-bumper and probably a hundred or so cars affected possibly going into the water as you can see we come around here to the scene on just a beautiful sunny summer night often times when emergency crews from various sources are attending an emergency scene like this they may have some information but clearly do not want to be careless about disseminating it so they will talk to each other to find out who knows what before any central figure takes a podium to issue any type of statement to the media i know that a lot of you are likely waiting with the baited breath to find out further details as are we quite obviously but if you're wondering why no official voice has spoken from this type of scene this is fairly often the case in a crisis like this and we should mention too joe fryer was saying so many people were trying to use their cell phones at that scene that it was difficult to get a signal out so know that as well that it's hard for people to use their cell phones right now simply because there is so much cell phone traffic in that area and there you see it there is the bridge collapsed completely into the river if we could get a tighter shot of that i know they're working on it to just zoom in and see what we can we're going to ask our producer or director if they could to see if there's

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director if they could to see if there's anybody in our chopper who is going to be able to uh tell us a little bit about more a little more rather about what it is they're seeing and we're going to work on that technically for you in a moment but right now we're able to speak with ken barnhart with uh mndot who's joining us now by phone and uh quite obviously mr barnhart this is a tragedy that we're just now learning some details of but if you would tell us in your estimation what may have happened here to cause this [Music] mr barnhart are you with us yes i am okay mike and julie here with kare11 just uh if you would give us an idea of what may have caused what we're witnessing here now live i cannot speculate as to what may have happened what i can tell you is that both the north and cell phone bridges i have been damaged and what we would like people to do at this point is stay completely away from the area if we do need help later on we would call for it the detour right now is using interstate 94 and highway 280. uh the more people that stay away from the area the better off we're going to be and the better off rescue workers will be sir are you aware of any construction going on on this bridge we were doing a millwood overlay project on the bridge uh again i'm not going to speculate as to anything that may have happened to the bridge that will have to be inspected to determine what happened sir how long have you been with mndot uh almost 18 years have you ever seen anything remotely like this uh thankfully no i'm standing right at the edge of it right now and i don't even know what to

say what are you seeing from where you're standing i'm seeing that the northbound lanes of the bridge are heaved up and the southbound lanes have somewhat collapsed also you uh mentioned that there was perhaps some work going on there how many men women involved from your department in a project like this oh boy uh from start to finish i

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oh boy uh from start to finish i couldn't tell you that our work like this is done by uh contractors but uh there again i cannot speculate on anything that may have happened you sound sir understandably uh shaken up can you describe your first reaction when you came upon the scene i don't think you want to hear my first reaction i i came to mind to me was when the earthquakes hit in san francisco what do you know about the age and integrity of this bridge prior to what happened just now uh as far as we know we do inspections on our bridges throughout the state on a regular basis and there was nothing at this point but there again i cannot speculate on that we will have somebody available later from our bridge office that can talk about it can you say with any certainty when the last time this bridge in particular was inspected uh no i don't have those records with me are you finding it's a problem because people are so curious as to what's happening on the scene have you seen some problems with that interfering with rescue efforts we are there are quite a few people down here that should not be down here and we would like to get everybody out of the area and it just would make things much easier for us we don't have to worry about spectators and rockers have you seen many people uh being taken away from the scene are there still people who are being rescued as we're speaking or or does that seem like i can't hear you over the sirens right now i was just wondering if people what we can see from our chopper is that it seems as if there are a lot of people walking around but we don't see a lot of people being removed from the scene from our vantage point are you still seeing a lot of that there is there's been a mass rescue effort undertaken and they right now are down underneath the bridge all of the vehicles that you can see from the surface of the bridge the people have been removed from them ken i know that uh you had mentioned several of your mndot employees and contractors perhaps working on this bridge prior to its collapse are you able to tell the folks at home the relatives the

00:36:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3TNGZvfxPM&t=2160s)

tell the folks at home the relatives the loved ones who there to contact to get an update on the conditions of those relatives at this point no i can't uh that will that information will be released as soon as we're able to do that and you would have to contact state patrol all right well we certainly appreciate your time we understand it's emotional for everybody involved and we appreciate the information you've shared with us we know the state patrol is setting up a command post nearby and i just want to stress we want people to do the detours and stay out of the area to let us get our work done and those detours again 94 and 280. yeah and if possible take 694. 694 is blowing halfway decent right now that would be an even better bet for us i've got one of our traffic people here and he said 694 is moving fairly good and i just have another question for you too sir we were told by an eyewitness that traffic was bumper to bumper at the time of the collapse around six o'clock do you have any idea how much traffic normally flows over that bridge uh i don't have a it's more than 100 000 vehicles on a daily basis ken i know you mentioned a moment ago about the type of work you thought was being done here but i i'm sorry i just wasn't able to hear you tell me again what was being done uh basically was a simple uh uh we were just doing concrete repairs nothing uh full depth and we were getting out just taking the surface off putting a new surface down new driving surface so you weren't doing any work underneath the bridge absolutely not moorings the pilings the footings nothing like that to your knowledge was being touched today by uh mndot or with the controversy there was no work going on beneath the bridge whatsoever did it seem to collapse upon a highway underneath it as well or mostly just into the river uh we want people to stay out of the area i haven't had a chance i don't know for sure how much of it has gone down beneath but we need people to stay off any of the surrounding roadways do you know yet if any if your workers are accounted for who are on that bridge i can't answer that either you're able to see i'm going to ask you to do a little sites unseen

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ask you to do a little sites unseen reporting if you would we had heard perhaps that a barge was close to the scene we don't see it now from our live pictures from sky 11. uh are you able to speak to that at all i from my vantage point i cannot see a barge or anything okay kent barnard with the minnesota department of transportation uh they're very close to the riverbank really and he is talking at length with us we really appreciate his time giving us an update as to what uh he's able to see and what he was telling us is that some work there he was aware of from minnesota department of transportation and its contractors going on the uh the top working some surface paving repair work yes certainly something that happens all the time on nearly every bridge across the state when it's finally summertime and they can get that work done obviously we still don't know what caused this bridge to collapse he did mention that they're inspected regularly we don't know when this particular bridge was last inspected but we do know that there are regular inspections and that obviously they did not believe anything was wrong with this bridge before uh six o'clock tonight when it collapsed with bumper-to-bumper traffic on it structural integrity certainly going to be one of the main questions asked over the next several days and the uh ways to get around this at least according to mr bernard where 694 and 94 and 280 he says are moving about as well as can be expected in a situation like this but in any case it's going to be a while before most of these uh cars are able to be rerouted and we know that you're watching this at home with as much disbelief and horror as we are it is hard to look at these pictures and i'm sure all of us have been on that bridge and are worried about those who are on it shortly after six o'clock right in the middle of rush hour tonight we understand that there are several medical choppers on their way to the scene and obviously you can see from sky 11 the emergency workers are doing what they can we were told that they are now currently focused on under the bridge trying to figure out if

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under the bridge trying to figure out if people are still in the water after this collapse directly into the mississippi sky 11 over right now and you can see too if we can just take a look at what you see at the bottom right of your screen it appears a portion of that bridge right about there gentlemen appears to be on top of some rail cars i'm assuming freight but i do not know for sure imagine that it's cargo of some type we don't know if anybody was involved in working that train line as you see right there and it's of course the top end of that bridge where the smoke continues to billow from and fire crews are watering down one apparent semi that had gone up in flames and also some fire activity there to the left-hand side of your screen as well that smoke clearly darker but joe fryer had mentioned before from that scene and i know he's with us again right now that they had backed his crew away because of concerns perhaps about the toxicity of that smoke joe yeah i'm mike uh we continue to get pushed farther and farther away uh from the scene a few things that are worth noting right now first of all for people who are concerned about family keep in mind there are so many cell phones going off right now in this area it is very hard to get a signal out so for people who may be struggling to get a hold of loved ones keep that in mind right now the cell service here very difficult to get a signal out it took me several times to try and be able to even reach care 11. a few other things here uh photojournalist fred akagi uh just returning from close to the scene i'm gonna hand the phone over to him and you can get an idea of what he's been observing hi um you know as soon as i got here i uh of course it's it's uh the streets are filled with emergency vehicles uh fire trucks and and uh police vehicles uh i was able to talk to an eye uh eyewitness who's actually on the bridge uh whom joe had talked to earlier but then at the parking lot where they were staging up command center i noticed there were about four kids on the sidewalk or in the parking lot with adults attending to them one was prone

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attending to them one was prone laying on the trunk of a vehicle didn't have any apparent uh injuries from the outside that looked very shaken up and and the kids i i would surmise the younger kids were probably anywhere from three to four years old uh in the young man that was on the back of the truck he was probably around you know eight or nine uh they did load him up in an ambulance they put him on a backboard with a neck brace uh and they scooted him out as quickly as they could but again as joe had reiterated um the emergency uh the the police officers keep pushing us a little bit further back it's a little bit tougher to see what's going on but uh still pretty chaotic right now so can you see a lot of activity of ambulances coming and

going from where you are uh you know it hasn't been bad um i know where i was at at the parking structure uh there probably were about six ambulances just waiting to go and uh at least three or four have left now in the half hour that i've been here uh one i know that was loaded with the young man that took off and the others i presume were also loaded up but they didn't have their sirens on when they took off with the young man they did have their sirens on and were getting down the street as quickly as they could one other thing that i noticed uh was a vehicle from homeland security when i got here about 45 minutes ago that was one of the vehicles i saw pull up you know we're speculating you know why would they be here uh i would say you know they just need to be here just in case they think that anything happened uh with a terroristic event but uh i definitely saw a homeland security vehicle here brett makes a good point for people who are watching this at home this is uh sadly in our day and age become a matter now of course uh since september 11th there are offices of emergency management scattered throughout the country uh representatives from homeland security who will be on scene at what sometimes may appear to be an even benign situation certainly not the case here

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situation certainly not the case here but that is their job to do as many quick assessments as possible we have heard just to be clear nothing at all that indicates that this is more than what you're seeing nothing to indicate at all that this is terrorism by any stretch but our reporters on the scene told us that they have seen someone from homeland security and that's in fact what they're doing they work as a kind of a central coordinating hub picking in all of this information from the various agencies that are on scene and making the best determinations they can as to what caused this and obviously they have every rescue crew available on that scene trying to get people in and out as you heard mr bernard from mndot saying please do stay away if if you're attempting to go to this scene please understand that it's only going to complicate matters for rescue workers they're asking anyone who needs to drive around this area to take 94 694 or 280 as a detour and stay away and let rescue crews do their job our care 11 tricia volpe is live at hcmc where she has seen obviously many ambulances coming and going and we're going to check in with her trisha can you hear me yeah julie i can hear you indeed several ambulances coming and going from hcmc they've been pulling in here one after the other and leaving just as quickly as they come witnesses here on the scene say that they have seen at least three people being brought in from what i could see myself i've certainly seen some ambulances pulling in folks on on stretchers they're being attended to by medical personnel immediately being brought into the hospital and we just spoke with william larson he's the assistant nursing manager here at hcmc and he confirmed to us that multiple patients have been brought to hennepin county medical center this is a a trauma center a level one trauma center in the twin cities multiple patients with multiple injuries some with critical injuries but some without critical injuries you couldn't go into the d into detail about the extent of the injuries other than to

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the extent of the injuries other than to say they were critical or not critical but he couldn't uh provide us with about the kinds of injuries what he did say though is that these are injuries that you would expect to see with a situation like this i'm told that indeed hennepin county medical center is going to be one of the main hospitals for patients to be brought to but depending on the number of patients they could also be sent to other hospitals in the area but the trauma team here the medical teams are certainly equipped and trained to deal with this kind of situation it's being called a disaster situation by uh folks here at hcmc and we're told mike and julie that we should expect regular updates throughout the evening certainly as information becomes available have you seen anyone at this point coming to hcmc to try to locate relatives or people they believe might have been on that bridge have not seen any relatives at this point we've seen a couple of people standing on the sidewalk watching the ambulances come in and out and and i've certainly spoken to a lot of folks out here but i haven't run into any relatives or any friends uh at this point doesn't mean that they're not here and it doesn't mean certainly that they're not on route uh we'll expect to see that certainly i would say very quickly here within the next half hour to an hour people will be coming to hcmc as they try to figure out where their loved ones have been sent trisha any reports of any fatalities at this point no reports of

fatalities that we know of at this point uh william larson who we spoke to couldn't tell us whether there were any fatalities again he mentioned multiple patients multiple injuries some with critical injuries which of course they are tending to immediately and as best as they can and some with less serious injuries at this point and when they say they've declared this a disaster that they're working on what kind of things uh click into place at hcm i'm sorry julie you were you were cutting i couldn't hear that question do you know what procedures go into place when they are dealing with a disaster how many extra teams they need to call in headaches you know i don't know in terms of numbers what i can tell you is what i've seen visually and it seems as though there are at least seven to eight medical personnel that i could see

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eight medical personnel that i could see uh that tend to each stretcher as they're being brought into the hospital uh what roles uh those people play of course you've got emergency room physicians here you've got nurses you've got specialists of all kinds uh but in terms of what procedures uh they do when these patients are brought in you know they assess and they have to determine it uh determine what to do next based on on what the injuries are it's a remarkable thing i'm sure to witness trisha as these uh fine men and women the professionals in the healthcare industry are able to work with almost a cool detachment though you're certain uh they're very emotional inside but they're able to go about their business right absolutely it's been it's been very interesting i wouldn't describe them a stoic at all i would say that uh these people are certainly all business they know exactly uh what they need to do these are are some of the most highly trained professionals in the world and they know what they have to do it's very methodical and the goal is to save lives and of course tend to injuries and and you can see that that is exactly what they're trying to do all right trisha thank you so much we will of course check back with trisha we know that the state patrol has set up is in the process of setting up a command post and we'll be checking in with them as well we know a lot of you are watching right now and and you know that it's likely you knew someone that was on this bridge or you're at home and you're waiting for a loved one to arrive home that would take that bridge obviously a very very congested time of day on that bridge we are right now trying to come up with a phone number places you can go to to figure out how to contact your loved one or figure out if they're at hcmc we will have that information for you because it is it is a heartbreaking thing to look at and unbelievable really hard to see this scene um it almost seems surreal it really does this is not something that uh all the training in the world can prepare you for until it actually happens and then you you hope i'm certain that you fall back on all that you've learned and you almost go on autopilot uh to work in a

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almost go on autopilot uh to work in a situation an environment just like this and we talked about the red cross being on the scene now and trying to assist and and the methodical way many of the emergency personnel will work through a situation like this as tricia had mentioned there's countless injuries at least at this point at this point though no reported fatalities and all of the organizations are going to work together to probably offer us some type of update here shortly and it would not surprise me at all to hear from the mayor at some point on this because when an event of this magnitude does transpire often he becomes the point man for the town so we'll be looking to hear something from city hall at some point here in fairly short order well you know it was interesting to talk with kent bernard from mndot a professional who's been with mndot for 18 years and you could clearly hear the emotion and the shock in his voice he was standing right on the scene looking at this bridge that has just turned into a crumpled pile of debris he said that right now what he could see was that they were looking for people underneath the bridge those cars that might still be in the water and here's a different vantage point you can see from 6th and main from one of our our cameras live there you can see the police tape up they are asking people to please stay away from the scene because it could hamper rescue efforts and we know no one wants to do that there are several detours set up 94 280 and 694 but obviously this is a massive scene right now this is a bridge that was built in 1967 and as mndot reported earlier undergoes as do all the bridges in the metro regular inspections not able to know for sure

when the last time this particular bridge 35w was inspected but it sits about 64-65 feet above the water level which is joe fryer is near the scene can tell you that water level is pretty low as most rivers and lakes in the area

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as most rivers and lakes in the area have been for some time joe if you would get us up to speed on what you're seeing now you know i moved a little bit farther on to the west and basically at where washington avenue is over 35 w which is just just shy of where this bridge collapsed and what we see here is just a litany of at least a dozen squad cars and also a series of tow trucks that are just lined up sitting here uh near the scene of where the bridge collapsed on on this on the west and south side perhaps waiting to try and get more cars out of the water it's unclear at this point but a number of police squads are just sitting here blocking traffic along with a number of tow trucks another interesting thing now this is happening right near the metrodome which is of course where twins game is uh getting going right around now that increased the traffic in the area increased the intensity so a lot of people in this area you see walking around in twins jerseys who are who are watching this who are maybe uh heading to the game when when when this happened or a little bit after this happened we're seeing police from not just this jurisdiction here in minneapolis but i've seen uh hopkins police officer on the scene here uh which means more than likely other jurisdictions from around the area are coming in to help because as we know minneapolis police had to come to this scene but still have to respond to other calls throughout the city another thing that we are seeing i just noticed a few moments ago a number of people in scrubs and blue scrubs perhaps from hcmc or from a local hospital with medical supplies that were walking into the scene and a little bit before that photojournalist brett akagi witnessed what appeared to be doctors stethoscopes heading uh toward the scene toward the river to perhaps offer any help on the scene that they can offer at this time mike and julie well we're looking live right now at a picture of several rescue boats that are in the water trying to figure out if there are folks who are still in the mississippi river as we speak we understand from an eyewitness that said he was able miraculously to walk away from this accident after being on the bridge he said he had a 35 foot free fall he estimated

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foot free fall he estimated and when you consider that bridge is about 64 feet above the mississippi river you understand the magnitude of a section of bridge this wide and long falling into the river both directions obviously uh bumper-to-bumper traffic at six o'clock tonight shortly after six when this accident happened and we understand that uh brett akagi saw some school children who were being treated on the scene we don't know if they came off of that school bus that has been referenced several times but we did see a shot of the bus just precipitously close to that edge where the bridge went in and we understand all the children on that on that bus were able to be escorted from the scene and many i'm sure on their way to local hospitals as we speak joe bridge spans about 1900 to 2000 feet long what have personnel been able to do to redirect some of the traffic that was on that bridge but not quite to the point of collapse have they been able to clear out those roads you know i'm standing on one side and obviously they've been i think cutting back traffic i'm going to have to assume although i'm looking toward it now i would have to assume they're not letting anyone from 94 get on the 35w uh so that would presumably create craps and backups on 94 but that would be the smartest approach at this point is to not even let anyone get onto 35w heading north and that's from the south side uh from the from the other side it's tough to say exactly what it is that they're doing but it's amazing the uh traffic agents are out in full force basically at every intersection redirecting people making sure they get nowhere close to the scene and keeping traffic flowing i'm standing here at washington in 35 w and uh you know traffic is moving they've got barricades up everywhere police are just using their squad cars to block the scene police officers in full force uh just standing on the road and keeping people as far away as possible police tape everywhere as they try and keep people just from even coming in this direction in the first place and uh at this point the thing is the only way you can actually get to this spot is to get onto the interstate so all the other city roads that they're

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so all the other city roads that they're blocking offers simply to more keep people from walking closer to the scene 694 94 280 the recommended alternates in a situation like this according to uh to mndot and so many things being digested right now joe by the emergency personnel and we're still looking live at smoke uh though however far lighter than it was last maybe an hour and a half or so ago are you able to see uh if any flames are still active in this area or whether this seems to be under control what's amazing is i looked up a few moments ago and saw blacker smoke than i saw not long before that so i'm not sure what the reason was for that but uh what we're still seeing i'm looking right now at an ambulance that is uh pulling up into the area the sound of sirens has not stopped filling the air in the last one hour and 20 minutes since this happened you know we were actually working on another story at hennepin county medical center uh when this clearly happened because all of a sudden we just saw a plethora a variety of ambulances take off in full force and we knew this was not a typical call and that's when we started heading over to the scene as well uh just now i'm seeing more doctors from the university of minnesota or doctors or medical people arriving on the scene coming here or whether they've been asked to come or whether they're just coming to see what they can do to help uh it's hard to say at this point but uh the stop the sound of sirens has not stopped filling the air in this area uh ever since this happened we are guessing just a little bit after six o'clock also were there a number of divers in the water right now though when we look at the scene it's certainly uh far more controlled as you would expect as time continues to go by uh divers are certainly an important aspect of any kind of rescue recovery uh situation with minneapolis we're expecting that they get help from all types of jurisdictions and is that what you're seeing as well you'd mention hopkins police also on scene there yeah and that was the only other squad car i've seen so far but i i will have to assume that other jurisdictions have have come in to help in whatever way possible whether it's helping here at

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possible whether it's helping here at the scene or whether it's perhaps helping take other calls i'm not sure but uh clearly you know when an emergency like this happens suddenly all your resources are directed to one area and uh you still have to respond to the other calls that are going on in the city yeah that's typically the difficulty for a lot of the departments is trying to maintain order in the rest of their cities and still assist as best they can so are you seeing them having a fair amount of ease getting the emergency crews in and out joe uh that's probably part of the reason why they got all the people out of the area even if they're cars which i assume some of our nukes cars are still trapped in the cordoned off area part of the reason to do that is to help get these emergency vehicles into the cordoned off areas and they have less traffic to deal with so that helps right now here i'm looking and i'm seeing the minnesota structural collapse rescue team from the dinah fire department is pulling away from the scene it appears the edina fire department's urban search and rescue that deals with structural collapse so that is just leaving the scene more tow trucks continue to pull up to the area where i'm standing at uh south second street and south 13th avenue witnesses and go ahead i'm joe i'm just going to ask if the witnesses or folks who are nearby watching this today seem to be composed and uh able to get a handle and the scope of what has happened here you know i think it's shock value people probably can't get close enough at the scene here to actually see what you guys can see from the helicopters up above um but certainly you see lots of people on their phones uh lots of concern and they must have just uh dumped out a huge group of witnesses here because suddenly a large large group of uh of people are coming out to where i am as if they've been perhaps asked to leave i'm not quite sure what the situation is they all appear to be doing okay there are lots of people all around mostly just interested in looking obviously concerned checking with loved ones to make sure they weren't in the area at the time this happened you know it's very much a shocking site but at the same time from most areas around here you can't actually

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around here you can't actually see it in its and its fullness you're watching kare 11 news live coverage of what has become a tragic early evening in minneapolis the i-35w bridge collapse right across from the university of minnesota campus there it happened right around six o'clock this evening we began our extended coverage at 6 30 if you're just joining us any number of cars on this bridge at the time of the collapse we checked in with tricia volpe not long ago at hcmc and she has given us the hospital's best update on injuries serious to critical no reported fatalities at this point but when you look at this twisted mass of metal and concrete it is very tough to imagine that the injuries don't begin to compound over the course of the evening we also spoke with the minnesota department of transportation earlier who have advised everybody to stay away from the area using 694 94 and 280 as your alternate routes and to stay away from the scene as joe had mentioned now he also mentioned to us mike this kent bernard from mndot that the bridge was in fact under repair but he seemed to indicate there were fairly minor concrete repairs that he was shocked by what had happened that there had been no indication that there was any trouble with this bridge and this was not uh in his estimation major work being done on this bridge and as he came upon the scene his voice was uh was very shaky and he said you know 100 000 vehicles daily go over this bridge which is inspected regularly he did not have it at the moment the last time this particular bridge was inspected but clearly was astonished and had never in his 18 years with mndot seen anything like this a lot of information for him to digest as you would imagine too because in addition to his crews out there several subcontractors and contractors working on there when we asked him if he could account for all of his personnel it's such a fresh scene right now it's very difficult so if you're at

[01:02:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3TNGZvfxPM&t=3720s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3TNGZvfxPM&t=3720s)

now it's very difficult so if you're at home watching and perhaps one of your loved ones friends or relatives works for mndot or works for one of these contracting companies who might have been doing some of the road work ken bernard was not able to definitively say call in a certain number for an update on their condition but as soon as we get that of course we'll pass that along to you we have a lieutenant amelia huffman on the phone once again from the minneapolis police department thank you for joining us again any idea at this point on numbers of people affected or numbers of cars yet yeah oh he's just looking for everyone can you hear us lieutenant i hear our uh chief photographer bretta coggy in the background there hi there julie hi is this brett here at the scene a moment ago we've been talking about that plus that we've seen on the scene it appears that they were a swim team on the way to some place and a number of parents are arriving here where we're standing to check and see how their kids are doing if their kids are okay i'm not sure if they're getting any answers at this point but but a number of uh parents are showing up here familiar kids on the bus hello hi joe we we actually are having a little bit of a hard time hearing you and we were trying to speak with lieutenant amelia huffman if she is there we'll check back with you in a moment joe if we could uh lieutenant are you on the line all right okay tell you what we'll try to get uh the lieutenant's situation squared away but joe if you're with us want to go back to you because uh we were not clear as to what you were saying you had mentioned something about a swim team being involved you know where they're from who who this is i'm gonna have to check real quickly on that they i believe someone said the weight house but i didn't have to check on that it was a swim team that was apparently heading uh to a meet of some sort and so parents now are showing up at the scene to try and learn more about that of course we heard about the school bus they were next to to the man we talked to earlier right after this happened who was uh next to the school bus when it happened that man was able to get out okay and was helping as many of the children as he can who might have been injured in this so some parents are showing up they have a look of concern on their face uh we'll try and find out a little bit more but from what i just overheard it

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more but from what i just overheard it sounded like they were with the weight house and they were heading to a swim meet uh uh probably this evening and when the taxes are they being allowed to get to their children assuming those children were not already transported to the hospital no at this point they're at the scene so i think they're looking for answers at this point where we're standing is probably not how they're going to find out about um about uh how their children are doing and uh and number of them um appears

may not even actually speak english some of the parents here who are on the scene and so they are probably confused or trying to figure out as much as they can where they're standing right now they're not going to probably find out much about the condition of the children they're not being allowed in closer to the scene joe is that what you're saying at this point i'm not sure if they're allowed to or if that's going to help at this point my guess is that their kids have probably been taken to the hospital at this point uh if that was necessary um are you seeing many people still being transported past you in emergency vehicles or by emergency personnel or is that not happening where you're standing but not from where i am standing and it is the weight house it looks like w-e-i-g-h-t house which was about 60 kids one person was guessing that were on the bus on this swim team at the time again this is just from one parent who is at the scene and they're trying to find out more about their kids at this time but um you know they are probably just as starved for information as many of us are at this time any idea on the age of these children uh hold on let me check all right 11 so we're talking around 10 11 90 years old that's what many of the kids were but we can't say for sure whether all the kids were that age and we know that they're just kind of arriving on the scene while you're talking to us we're just wondering if any of them have been able to make cell phone contact with with any of the kids any indication of that uh not at this point um that we have

01:06:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3TNGZvfxPM&t=3960s)

uh not at this point um that we have talked with have been able to and keep in mind if these are 9 10 11 year old kids chances are those kids don't have cell phones so our cell phones are not going to be a way that they can reach these kids and even if those kids have cell phones chances are they're still they're still on the bus they don't have them with them still and that's obviously what these what these parents are assuming is that the kids are on the bus and haven't been transported anywhere yet does there appear to be a we know that the state patrol is setting up a command unit in the area we know that the red cross is setting up a spot there to help with the rescue workers and to help take care of some of the children who might have been in a situation where they're on a bus and didn't have a parent nearby is there any indication around you of where these command centers are being up so when people are looking for a loved one they have a place to go not where i am but uh we haven't been directed to those areas yet because they're trying to keep us away at this point as opposed to letting us closer uh there are probably some command centers whether they've set up command centers for loved ones yet we don't know at this point and obviously a lot of these parents don't know because they're standing here i see one uh presumably a father or a man who is on the phone at this time trying to clearly reach someone parents with a concerned look on their faces with their kids but uh they just don't know a lot of information at this point and and no one's standing where we are uh is probably going to be able to guide them in the right direction yet all right joe we'll let you uh try to to grab a word with some of those parents if you can and find out if they've made contact with any of their kids and we will check back with you shortly thank you all right 7 35 in the evening right now carol evan's been on with this story for the last hour or so this is the i-35w bridge collapse over the mississippi in minneapolis near the campus of the university of minnesota and as joe fryer has been reporting from the scene now that's where several cars maybe as many as a hundred early reports are that there were many cars on this span when it collapsed right around six o'clock this evening for all intents and purposes the height of rush hour the extent of the injuries not quite uh clear at this point though artrisa volpe is at hcmc where many of the injured had

01:08:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3TNGZvfxPM&t=4081s)

is at hcmc where many of the injured had been taken and we're hearing anywhere from uh stable up to critical condition at this early juncture no reports of any fatalities we want to take a look now on our from our website if we can some people have been sending us here's a picture of the bridge that has is part of the uh mndot site we believe and just has some information on the bridge for example it was 64 feet high before this collapse and it was built in 1967 regularly inspected as as we have mentioned by mndot we're not sure when the last date that was inspected but it was a steel arch deck truss bridge that apparently collapsed instantaneously and we've heard eyewitnesses and people who were actually in cars on the bridge at the time when it fell that 64 65 feet say that it was just a complete free fall spans about 2 000 feet and many emergency vehicles and personnel on the scene here we expect that they issue some type of statement from

a central hub here in no short order as well as homeland security also involved in this as you would imagine at home this is something that needs to be cleared through the office of homeland security from the point that they need to make certain that there is no terrorism involvement here at all and to this point we have no knowledge of that what it looks to be is just what you see it to be a tragic tragic evening here in minneapolis where that bridge has collapsed we also know that uh weather may be playing a role in what is happening here in the way of recovery and our weather team is in the office right now giving us an update on some storms gentlemen moving through the area that's right mike we have thunderstorms unfortunately to make the situation worse just starting to move into the northwest metro right now if we take a look at viper right now you can see that we are watching a line of storms we were watching the last few hours starting to move into the metro the heaviest of it right in

01:10:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3TNGZvfxPM&t=4200s)

the metro the heaviest of it right in the northwest metro right now but they are moving through the twin cities as we speak and they're moving to the southeast right now moving through maple grove just north of fridley and south of andover and they are again moving to the southeast here gradually but surely headed towards the area and unfortunately it does look as though that area will get at least a little wet at some point fortunately on the most southwestern end of this line of showers and storms is the weakest but you can see the strongest area moving through the north metro right now and we will be dealing with some showers and even some thundershowers through the whole metro area but specifically that area also over about the next half hour to 45 minutes or so as those storms progress through the area so only to make matters worse unfortunately all right that's unfortunate sven sungaard thank you very much we'll obviously be keeping an eye on that as well um it's interesting that that bretta coghill our chief photographer mentioned that a truck from homeland security was there and obviously that's a matter of due course it's not to cause any alarm but the rescue teams are probably better prepared for something like this because of what happened on september 11th because they had to prepare after that date for some kind of an emergency or tragic accident as this appears to be when we would need several teams from various departments all responding to the same scene that includes police fire ambulance obviously the hospitals have protocol in place uh and maybe uh better off for it better prepared because of things that occurred after september 11th well a couple of reasons you might see that tonight julian that is in fact as you mentioned 911 but also because we happen to be home to a very large airport so with that in mind these crews have often trained for a tragedy a potential tragedy out at one of the airports i many cases when you see these types of things happen in smaller towns the coordination and training is different because the possibility of a calamity is perhaps a little bit less so so i

01:12:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3TNGZvfxPM&t=4321s)

is perhaps a little bit less so so i think in this situation you've got two reasons why you're seeing what appears to be a very measured and matter-of-fact type operation here with recovery with rescue with emergency personnel and with talk now of uh the conversations happening between the agencies so as we had mentioned before we certainly expect there to be a central command uh post either the one you had mentioned coming up with the state patrol or perhaps homeland security federal state they're all working in concert just to make sure as you know to get that information streamlined and to have one constant voice so the information is not parsed and it is not varied from agency to agency and we obviously will let you know as soon as they are giving an update from any of these command units right now we have jeffrey demars on the phone he's standing at sixth and main what are you seeing right now jeff yeah i'll tell you what guys the crew is arguing getting everything ready actually getting the crowd kind of out of the way because there's quite a crowd here as you can imagine if you probably alluded to because of the twins game but they're really staging everything and you can see a concerted effort definitely of uh cars going in one direction and emergency vehicles going in another direction to to save and help whatever needs to be done at the shoreline now it was on the south side of the shore and couldn't see everything but you could definitely see the of the bridge and uh also uh you know a vehicle still stranded on the bridge and you guys may have that as well and i talked to somebody who was actually on the bridge heard the bang thought it was just the

construction workers but somehow uh was able to escape he said it was kind of like a domino effect where cars were falling in front of him he was able to turn around get off the bridge and be safe but of course his main concern right now is people fell and how many people are in the water jeffrey demars is a backpack journalist with kare11 news been with us now for uh better part of the summer and he's on the phone with us jeffrey

01:14:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3TNGZvfxPM&t=4440s)

the phone with us jeffrey if you would can you tell us what access has been like for you i don't know if you have your camera with you if emergency personnel are allowing you access to this story yeah there's definitely uh you know they have a rope top area they're preventing people from you know getting anywhere close or obstructing any emergency vehicles from getting in and out so access is pretty difficult in fact you can see you know news crews up over on foot and uh you know of course the uh reporters from the uh different newspapers and photographers there's people everywhere trying to get as close as they can um and uh there is a large rope top area on the south side of the river on the north side of the river of course across the bridges so there is uh it's if you want to get in it's going to be a little bit difficult but again it's it's a large area so if you know you're sneaky well you probably could get in but uh a lot of emergency people out here preventing people from getting or even obstructing any rescue services well jeffrey i have another question for you but it's a good time to mention that they have specifically asked people to stay away from the scene if you need to get across the river take 694 280 94 there's several detours set up for people to stay away from that scene could you describe to me what what the reaction is of people uh who you do see around you obviously other than the news crews do you see many people trying to locate loved ones or no you know what the problem is you have so many people that see what's going on and of course you don't want to talk about terrorism but there is that that chance if it's if it's out there i mean in this post 911 world and you have all of these people on other bridges standing there talking to their friends saying yeah i'm right here and really what they should be doing is getting out of the way let the emergency crews get in do what needs to be done so that they're just you know not all this uh not people uh in the area so it's it's it's you know as close to chaos i guess that you get with uh concerted emergency effort here

01:16:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3TNGZvfxPM&t=4561s)

here and that that seems to be the talk is just people trying to take in the scene i'm sorry what's that it just seems to be that is the uh i can hear the sirens behind you that's just people are standing around just basically talking about the scene itself how it could have happened their reaction to the scene at this point how how it happened you know so many people were headed to the twins games they're saying you know what you never see a bridge fall so no chance in going to the game um and they have their cell phones out of course taking pictures other people i was interviewing some of the folks and and just people with their cancers wanting to uh you know capture i guess this historical event uh in minneapolis all right jeffrey de mars joining us by phone uh tonight from the scene there 35 w bridge collapse over the mississippi in minneapolis and we're just now seeing cross the associated press wire a statement from the homeland security department saying that they have received no indications that this collapse was an act of terrorism this according to a spokesman for that department quote we continue to monitor this situation at this time no indication of a nexus to terrorism that according to the homeland security department and uh even according to the lieutenant from the minneapolis police department who had joined us earlier by phone uh it certainly does not appear to be the case it looks just to be a horrible tragedy just a mystery yeah a mystery from mndot as well they said some construction was going on on the bridge of course we all know that's normal this time of year and minor even by their own minor construction he said just some concrete repair going on at the time uh we did have an eyewitness who said there were there were jackhammers that he was driving past at 10 to 15 miles an hour in bumper-to-bumper traffic shortly after six o'clock when all of a sudden the bridge just gave way in both directions as you can see and landed in the mississippi river he said he had about a 35 foot free fall and uh as as several eyewitnesses have described now they

01:18:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3TNGZvfxPM&t=4680s)

eyewitnesses have described now they those who were on the bridge at that section tried to put on their brakes tried to get out of their cars and just crawl scale back up that bridge to safety and helping others along the way mndot making very clear from what they were able to report that the work being done on this bridge was surface repair work no work being done at the base of this bridge and from their initial report no indication that anything they were doing or the contractors or subcontractors who work along with them did anything to jeopardize the integrity at all of this bridge but they were very also very clear to point out as well they have not been able to account yet for all of the the workers and their whereabouts so for those of you at home who have employ who have loved ones or relatives with mndot or any of these contracting companies when we get a contact number for you uh to find out about their whereabouts and about their conditions we'll certainly pass that along to you trisha volpe has been standing by at hcmc watching the rescue crews come and go and getting updates from them periodically we're going to check back in with her now trisha well indeed we've seen many ambulances coming and going here just within the last hour a few minutes ago hospital official came out christine hill she is media relations here at hennepin county medical center and she gave us a quick update 15 patients at this point being treated here at hcmc 15 patients we heard earlier that those are patients with multiple injuries some of those injuries are critical some are not critical at this point they couldn't go into any of the details about the injuries but hospital officials say these are the kind of injuries you would expect to see with a situation of this kind again 15 patients being treated here at hennepin county medical center tonight this is a level one trauma center here in the twin cities so this is what folks here are trained to do they go through drills they train for this on a regular basis so they're very ready for what has happened here tonight this is a disaster situation it's also described here at hcmc as an alert orange and hennepin county medical center is putting an alert out there for all of its staff who are not

01:20:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3TNGZvfxPM&t=4800s)

all of its staff who are not working tonight basically they need any medical personnel who are out there tonight who are not scheduled to work to come in as soon as they can this is an alert orange as we said 15 patients at this point but this is just the first wave of patients they expect to see here tonight at hcmc we're expecting to get updates every 15 minutes to a half hour we're expecting another one in just a few minutes mike and julie joe fryer had mentioned a moment ago that uh there perhaps was a swim team on board a school bus involved in this have you uh any update or any information regarding that no indication at this point who the patients are who've come here to hcmc we asked that question they really aren't going to give any details about who the patients are at this point we haven't seen any family or friends around the hospital of course there are several entrances several ways to get in and out of the hospital and certainly people will be coming here to to find their loved ones but at this point we don't know who the patients are we just know that there have been 15 patients who've come in and out of here we've seen them come in of course via the ambulance and as soon as they are pulled out on the stretcher a very large team of medical personnel are tending to them they are triaged and we're expecting to see that here throughout the evening given the scope of what we're seeing in video and now you're reporting that 15 patients have been taken to hcmc is the hospital uh i don't want to use the word but for lack of a better one at all surprised that the volume of patient traffic isn't greater i don't know that that they're surprised by anything here at this point this is something that uh that they're trained to do they they they go through drills for this kind of situation uh 15 patients doesn't seem uh perhaps like a lot of patients coming here to hcmc but there are several medical centers across the twin cities as i was told earlier this evening depending on the number of patients we'll see folks going to hospitals throughout the metro area also earlier in our update about five minutes ago or so we were told that those 15 patients are just the first wave of patients that will brought be brought here to hcmc we

01:22:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3TNGZvfxPM&t=4921s)

will brought be brought here to hcmc we will be expecting uh several others uh over the next few hours typically the cases they'll prioritize they're on the scene and when they talk about the first wave of patients often those are just the first they can get to and often times on the other hand it's those they feel are most critical and need the most attention are they able to speak to that at all as to where they feel these 15 came

from it's not clear where in the in the disaster area the 15 people came from what we were told earlier is just in terms of their injuries they can't go into details about the injuries because at this point they're still assessing people and trying to find out what their needs are but we know that some of those patients are indeed critical so that would indicate to us some very very serious injuries and of course others with minor injuries all right trisha volpe reporting live from hcmc we will certainly be checking back with you thank you so much and mike you were touching on the severity of injuries and and uh logistics of this scene as you can see it is a very large scene it must be a very difficult scene to get people in and out of and of course you can see uh from some angles that we've shown you from sky 11 several boats on the mississippi river and one of the main concerns right now trying to figure out how many cars went into the mississippi how many people may still be in the water and of course we know that there are so many loved ones out there who are nervous about their loved ones their friends and and we want to stress to you that cell phone signals are very difficult still at this time in that area it's difficult to get a cell phone signal out but we know that joe fryer has been standing by and he's been talking with some parents of some children who are on a swim team who were involved in this accident joe were you able to find out anything more from those parents yeah mike and julia sorry your helicopters flying overhead um we did speak with some of those parents they were with a summer program at a community school in south minneapolis i'm not sure the name of the school or the name of the program the parents weren't sure either but they say it's in south minneapolis at 26th street and 13th avenue so the kids

01:24:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3TNGZvfxPM&t=5040s)

26th street and 13th avenue so the kids do a variety of activities every day they're there during the day today apparently the activity was swimming so they were obviously going swimming uh north of where their school is and we're heading back for the day to try and get back to the school by six or a little bit thereafter there one person guessed that there may have been around 60 kids or so plus some adults some chaperones who are on the bus we don't know for sure but uh this one man we spoke to says he had both a daughter and a son and then their ages range in in around the 10 year old 11 year old maybe a little younger range uh he says both kids are okay speaking with people it sounded like most if not all it's hard to say most if not all of the injuries were were relatively minor not terribly serious or critical but there may have been at least one person on the bus who had suffered some rather more serious critical injuries so at this point it looks like perhaps a few dozen students as part of a summer program were on a school bus they've been swimming today and we're heading back to the school in south minneapolis and they were pretty much toward the center of this bridge when it went down and a number of people had to go in and try and rescue the students who were inside the bus but uh one man we talked to says both his daughter and son are okay and the indication was that that most of the students may have suffered some serious or critical injuries but seem to be doing all right joe the physical injury is certainly an important uh aspect of what's transpiring here but the psychological injuries to these children something too that emergency personnel are going to have to uh evaluate yeah and certainly that's the case and uh again photojournalist fred akagi who's been around me uh much of this evening uh did actually see one of the children who was on the bus he spoke with him briefly i didn't get a chance to hear exactly what that young man had to say but he was clearly shaken when he reunited with his parents and think about what this is like for the parents themselves i saw one mother who was standing there i wasn't able to speak with her directly she did not speak english but you could see the tears in her eyes even knowing that her two children were okay going

01:26:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3TNGZvfxPM&t=5160s)

that her two children were okay going through something like this and waiting to see those children and hold them how did it hard for any parent to imagine joe how did they end up reuniting did they just come across them on the scene or is there the the one child who looked older perhaps young teens uh was just here on the scene when he ran with his parents these other folks uh we i don't know if they've had a chance to reunite yet with theirs and we're seeing some more students here who uh who it's hard to tell but it appears they may know or uh i'm guessing this these people who are walking by me right now are probably looking right now for relatives fact i see a family running into the street right now whether they're doing that to to try

and uh find someone who can help them or whether they actually see someone uh they know it's tough at this time to know exactly what it is these families are supposed to do all right joe we're going to let you go for just a couple of moments because our greg vandegrift is near the scene right now able to see our first ground pictures of some of what has transpired greg good evening and what can you tell us from your view well mike uh right now can you hear me right now yes we can okay um i'm on the north end of the bridge on the west side of the bridge by saint anthony maine as you can see right back here there are still oh 10 or so maybe more cars in the bridge right here you can see where it bent at this one point near some railroad tracks there are also some railroad cars here trapped underneath um one of the things that uh i've heard talked about is they're calling for help from all over town and as we arrived here on the uh the north side of the river we saw water patrols from saint croix ramsey and washington counties and anoka county rushing by to help they were bringing their boats in we also saw ambulances departing uh the sense we got from the urgency that we heard uh in the blast of the siren is that perhaps perhaps i emphasize that they were carrying some uh injured now i'm talk i'm standing here with uh will farley will was over in the dinky town area just before this happened tell me how you became aware of this um we were

01:28:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3TNGZvfxPM&t=5280s)

how you became aware of this um we were driving on the 4th street university area heading back from my girlfriend's apartment and all of a sudden we saw a giant dust cloud just appear and at that point we had no idea what was going on and we just kept on driving over the bridge at which point we saw the bridge was bent in half and construction workers were just staring there with blank faces on their look and nobody really knew what was going on so we drove down to uh the river and which point we realized the magnitude of what just took place i mean you you sort of everyone is is stunned nobody knew what was going on construction workers there was no cops there was no ambulance at that point everybody in dinkytown was just utterly confused for sure and your thoughts when you look down just you know it's cliche it doesn't happen but i mean obviously there's construction going on i mean it makes a little bit more sense do you have an estimate how many cars did you try to count cars it's rush hour traffic on 35 w i mean come on there's got to be something you know there's got to be something bad going on down there so okay thank you so much will uh farley he uh as you heard uh came to the bridge moments after this happened there are probably i would guess uh two to three hundred people down here just trying to to see what has happened to get a sense we keep getting pushed back you can see one of the uh train cars here um that would carry i i suspect again we're we're just this is a best guess here but uh carry some kind of liquid you can see it has been dented we are not sure what is in that although i did talk to an officer who said it had been checked so right now that's what we see from here mike all right we'll pick it up thank you greg we're going to stay with you in just a couple of moments uh also want to let people know that the twins game that is going on there at the dome which had been a concern for folks as to how they would deal with that massive traffic going through downtown uh apparently they are telling us now that the twins game will go on because

01:30:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3TNGZvfxPM&t=5400s)

that the twins game will go on because officials with the team and of course with security are concerned that if they let people out they'll make it worse yeah you put that many more drivers on the road so that's the situation if you have a friend or family member who is at the twins game they're going to be there through the evening because what we're told right now is they are whether they want to or not barring an emergency of course they're being asked not to leave well traffic and people coming by just to look at the scene are certainly cause for concern for emergency workers they're asking people to take detours at 280 694 and try to stay away from that scene one other thing that could really complicate matters tonight is bad weather and unfortunately we may be seeing some of that spend sun guards in our weather center now with more sven that's right unfortunately we told you uh just a little while ago that there are some thunderstorms right on the edge of this situation just off to the northwest so take a look at viper and show you what we're watching x on the map there is where the accident has occurred and you can see just to the north and northwest that's where the thunderstorms are right now fortunately the worst of it does appear to be in the north metro right now and all this is pretty much moving straight east a little northeast but we're seeing a little bit of some

redevelopment here on the southwest end of that that is a little bit of a cause for concern here of course any weather is a problem at this point of course everyone out there and many folks at homes here across the metro seeing that the skies have clouded up and that is because of this line of thunderstorms that is unfortunately about to move through the area and you can see that right around crystal fridley right now seeing the rain some heavy rain maybe even a little bit of hail show a future scan here and show you what we're expecting this is uh 10 after eight quarter after eight eight twenty 8 30 um so right around the 8 30 hour anywhere between a quarter after and 8 30 8 40 this area could be dealing with some rain there um hopefully not the heaviest of this which does appear to be to the north but again right around a quarter after eight so we're looking at uh

01:32:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3TNGZvfxPM&t=5520s)

so we're looking at uh about the next 10 to 10 minutes to maybe a half hour that they could potentially be dealing with some rain showers primarily but also the possibility there could be a little lightning maybe some small hail a gust of wind most of that does appear to stay to the north at the moment but of course these storms could pulse up redevelop at any time but for now fortunately the worst of the storm activity does appear to be to the north but they are going to be clipped by some of these showers and thunderstorms just over about the next 10 to 40 minutes kind of on and off here all right sven thank you for the update we appreciate it just one more thing that emergency workers are dealing with we're about to deal with as the bridge over 30 over mississippi river 35 w uh collapsed at 605 tonight in the middle of rush hour traffic and we have been on the air with the story uh shortly after that we came on the air and it's obviously still fairly chaotic at that scene and we still don't have any real idea of how many people might have been affected by this accident as you join us now at the top of the hour expecting to see this prime time programming you will understand certainly as to why you're watching the coverage you are at this collapse 35w there in minneapolis this is tape from earlier this evening we have had crews on the scene now for a couple of hours bringing you as many updates as possible uh the known injuries to this point 15 people transported to hcmc earlier this evening where trisha volpe has been giving us updates the conditions on those patients ranging anywhere from good condition to critical condition and right now you're taking a look at some raw video from the scene that was recorded a bit earlier many much of this video has been edited but our apologies if it appears to be somewhat graphic you understand in an emergency situation that this is how we're best able to tell the story but again back to those injuries at hcmc julie 15 people and right now no known fatalities and of course it's still early in this search many people went directly into

01:34:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3TNGZvfxPM&t=5641s)

search many people went directly into the mississippi river there are several rescue boats out on the river right now we have not got an update on what they have found if anything at this point but we'll certainly let you know as soon as we know something we do know that the american red cross has set up a command post at the scene to help rescue workers and also to help victims of this crash and carla halt is there live and she joins us now carla can you hear me yeah i do have you julian mike yes as you mentioned emergency officials have been extremely busy since this happened just after six o'clock and so they have had uh emergency and rescue operations as their priority but they are now getting organized to brief the media and to give us an idea of what is happening here we do know that there are several different law enforcement agencies of course here including the fbi including some military operations as well and we are seeing all of them operating in what seems to be a brand new form obviously these people are not accustomed to dealing with something on this large of scale now i did talk to a couple of eyewitnesses one of whom was a lady who was i in her car on the bridge when it simply started breaking into two she said she saw a truck go into the opening between the two sections of the bridge she saw other cars colliding into each other one car that was suspended hanging in midair between the bridges she as all the cars were careening and crashing to a stop she her car came to stop she got out of her car and then ran to help a nearby school bus i know you've been talking about the school bus while she was right by that school bus she and another man went on board that school bus helped all of the kids in that bus they are believing that it's about 30 kids to get out of the school

bus she tells me that the kids were complaining of some minor injuries four backs and some cuts and scrapes but otherwise were okay but she again was helping those kids uh those children and they were about uh between uh sixth grade she believes that roughly around that age so a lot of scared

01:36:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3TNGZvfxPM&t=5760s)

scared scared children a lot of terrified people here but again officials doing the best they can and now just now taking their first formal opportunity to give us an idea of uh what exactly is happening in fact we've just been informed by one officer who was just yelling out to all the media that is gathering here that they plan to formally brief us in about 10 minutes that will be the first formal briefing that they will be giving since this accident happened that's about what uh all of our reporters had told us what happened and about what you can expect in a situation like this carla has come up to about five minutes after eight o'clock in the evening and we should pass along to folks without causing or intending to cause any type of alarm but we know there are a number of out of you out there who are wondering about terrorism and we should tell you that the office of homeland security is on this scene and they have issued a statement saying that there does not appear to be any indication at all that what you're witnessing is any type of act of terrorism but it's their duty and their job to monitor this and if they give us any new information of course we'll pass that along to you and you're seeing uh some footage of some of the victims being carted off in ambulances we know that hcmc is just one hospital it is a level one trauma hospital that is taking care of of some of these victims but certainly hospitals across the area will be receiving patients at this point only about 15 at hcmc but as you can see they are continuing to rescue people from this accident and you saw earlier a woman crying a lot of raw emotion at the scene we know joe pryor had been standing by with parents trying to figure out where their children were if they were okay if they had been involved in this accident and we are very much looking forward to this briefing in 10 minutes to help us understand the breadth of this accident and how many people might be involved but of course it happened at 605 on one of the busiest bridges one of the busiest areas in the metro during rush hour a gentleman who was on the scene said he estimated about a hundred cars were involved because it was bumper to bumper traffic and they were only moving at about 10 miles per hour while mndot crews were doing some light

01:38:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3TNGZvfxPM&t=5880s)

light construction on the bridge according to mndot it was just some uh very basic concrete repair on the bridge at the time mndot doing its uh best to reinforce that point we had asked them pointedly if any work had been done uh to the underside of the bridge any of the pilings any of the structure down there and he was very emphatic was ken bernard with mndot that no all of the work as you had mentioned julie had in fact been surface work perhaps some uh repairs to potholes and whatnot but look at this twisted uh massive metal here on tape that was shot earlier this evening and you can tell that between the weight of that bridge which is about a two thousand foot span and the volume of traffic on top of that the impact in the water and the amount of people affected here is by and large even greater i think that a lot of folks had expected and it may in fact impact what it is we're seeing at hcmc as you mentioned 15 people there now but other hospitals likely taking patience at this hour as well and the twins game did go on at the metrodome in case you're curious about that they believed it would be actually it would inhibit the rescue effort to cancel the game and send all those people back out into traffic again so that game is going on but mike i know you just received a press release about tomorrow's game yeah they're talking about tomorrow's game a statement from the twins saying in deference to what's happened here they are postponing tomorrow night's ballpark groundbreaking ceremony which was scheduled to happen so it's that ballpark groundbreaking ceremony tomorrow that has been postponed in light of what has happened the game itself against kansas city also going to be postponed that of course uh taking effect tomorrow and we're receiving word now through our producer that cnn is telling us three people three people have been killed in what you're watching right now in this accident and when you and when you look at this scene you you could only hope that the number remains that low but truly

01:40:03 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3TNGZvfxPM&t=6003s)

number remains that low but truly a vast scene i mean we have traffic stopped from stopped at university avenue from the north washington avenue from the south four lanes of traffic on that bridge that just went right into the water and obviously they have detours in place you don't want to go anywhere near this scene for a variety of reasons take 94 280 or 694 to get around it it is encouraging to see though as we looked at some live pictures of people being loaded into ambulances it's still very much a rescue effort but three fatalities that we're reporting now at 808 in the evening and obviously dive crews and teams are still on the water searching for more victims hcmc scheduled to give us an update on further conditions and perhaps may be able to speak more to the sad news that three people perhaps have been killed in this accident we expect that update here in the next uh several minutes we're monitoring uh live pictures and tape coming into our newsroom as we have been for the last several hours and we're able to provide just a couple here for you which is clearly videotape as our choppers refuel and our ground crews get more information to pass along to you and that hcmc shot establishes itself and we expect that press conference and also of course we will eventually hear from a central command post handling all of the law enforcement agencies and many of the emergency crews as well and we'll have that press conference for you too as soon as they decide to to issue a statement obviously they're trying to get all their facts in line they want to have one common voice one continuous stream of information that allows them to maintain a straight story because in a situation like this you're likely going to hear different opinion and different thought and different ideas from various folks so they're going to want to put all that information through a press for all intents and purposes and give us a streamlined statement we'll have it for you as soon as they prepare to announce it right now we have kevin smith who's with the minnesota

[01:42:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3TNGZvfxPM&t=6120s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3TNGZvfxPM&t=6120s)

kevin smith who's with the minnesota twins on the line kevin we just read your press release that the game will be postponed tomorrow we understand the game tonight is going on as we speak yeah that's correct guys this incident happened at such a time where we had a lot of fans already on the site right now and it was important that uh we went on with the game for one reason we did not want to uh put another 20 or 25 000 people out back onto the roadways uh without a lot of information to gum up the the freeway so the game although as difficult as it may be is ongoing but tomorrow's game is postponed because we don't want to put incremental traffic back on those roadways when the rescue workers need to be working there instead of fans coming to a ball game getting some different information in my ear i only have a second to ask you this question after the game tonight what to become of the fans are they allowed to leave at that point yeah the fans will be able to leave we are going to make no uh we're going to make announcements in the ballpark regarding this as we get information from mndot and the state patrol regarding egress from the ballpark we'll pass that along to the fans so they won't be surprised they'll have to move out from the mexican area in a different fashion kevin smith with the minnesota twins tonight thank you kevin thank you kevin let's go to greg vandergrift he's standing by live now with uh with someone to interview i assume a witness hi greg 18 hi julie um i am right now with two people who heard this and then looked out and saw it uh joe hughes and jared powers you guys were were here at the stone arch apartments about two football maybe three football fields from the bridge tell me what you you heard and then what you saw well i was just riding up the elevator the fifth floor and then i felt the rumble and then we were actually just gonna leave and then we saw this whole scene so we got down this hill here and walked all the way up to the scene and where it was mainly just firefighters at the time and then some people that were watching and trying to help too and then yeah jared yeah we you know we carried people

[01:44:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3TNGZvfxPM&t=6241s)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3TNGZvfxPM&t=6241s)

jared yeah we you know we carried people from the bridge um on you know we put them on the stretchers and then carried them to the ambulance um you know when you put a bloody delusional pregnant woman onto a stretcher and then carried to the ambulance it's one of those things you're going to remember for a while so she was one of the victims yeah pregnant yep what was she saying she she was completely out of it she was maybe she was moaning everyone smiled around she was she wasn't looking good and so you helped get four people out of out of the river or off the uh yeah yeah three were out of like kind of the rubble

where the bridge collapsed um on the off the shore over there and the other was in the river yeah um we saw this guy helping him fully get the life jacket he's swimming him in the shore and he had just his whole face was all bloody and we were talking to him like not talking to him but the firefighters when we were pulling into the ambulance and he had like his broken jaw and everything and he was extremely bloody what are you guys thinking through all this just trying to help to start yeah that was our first instinct was just to try to help out and when you first saw the bridge believe your eyes or i was in shock i could not i didn't really have anything to describe we were we were like silent when we were walking over like we didn't say a thing yeah it's just i i couldn't believe it either thank you very much that is uh jared powers and joe hughes you heard them say they were here in an apartment building within a couple football fields of the bridge uh as it collapsed they felt it uh and then they ran over to help well craig could you ask them what they saw in the river i know they saw one man being uh rescued and brought to shore could they see anything else in the river cars other people one of our my co-workers julie uh is is wondering what else you saw in the river we saw we saw quite a few cars floating some collapsed yeah and then there was one car there was like the bridge was at like a v and the car was literally like bent in half between it all and then just collapse completely crush cars gentlemen we don't want to interrupt the

01:46:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3TNGZvfxPM&t=6361s)

gentlemen we don't want to interrupt the bridge gentlemen we certainly appreciate all you've been able to add to our coverage and news tonight and a job well done on helping those people we're sorry to interrupt you but we are getting a press briefing right now at hcmc so let's listen in live at their updated last word 15 patients there want type of injuries from motor vehicle trauma or fall which means uh we uh injuries to the head and face and extremities the problem with these types of injuries is you don't know the extent of the internal injuries and that's what we're uh determining right now more on the death the cause of death we believe the cause of death was a drowning drowning drowning and there may be more at the scene i don't have information on the scene age gender of the victim i don't have that either we have a very well developed disaster response team which we have drills on periodically through the year but basically we set up a triage center and then we sort we have a physician and nurse team at that center we call in we call in personnel from the hospital of all types people who transport patients nurses doctors uh administrative people to help with the logistics security to help with with uh security type issues and locking down the perimeter and then we sort patients into those who are critically ill those who are not critically ill but ill and have injuries requiring intervention urgently and those who are what we call the walking wounded those with minor injuries have you been told what to expect have you been told what to expect the rest of the night tonight uh the question is have i been told what to expect for the rest of the night and um no we don't know what to expect except that typically in a disaster situation like this it will be patients who find their own transportation to the hospital they may go to any hospitals

01:48:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3TNGZvfxPM&t=6481s)

hospital they may go to any hospitals as any of you might if you're at a situation like this and you could get out of there you would find your own way so we expect uh pacers to be trickling in but those would fall typically would fall in the rocket wound walking wounded uh category critically injured are they children are the adults the six who are critically injured we have uh the ones that came here were largely adults i'm told that there were six children that went to uh north side hospitals from the north side of the bridge the scene in the hospital is very well controlled we have a command center on the second story of the hospital with good communication with the emergency department we have physician leaders in each of the three areas of the emergency department nursing tasks have all been assigned in advance for this type of situation so we keep track of patients very carefully and resources very carefully we have a personnel pool on the second floor so that they don't all congregate in the emergency department and communication back and forth so that we we get the help that we need the person who died are they aware of that i don't have that information we have a family center in terms of the damage at this point after what happened did you expect it to be more crowded at the hospital or is this the expectation i think this is uh it's unknown what would happen when how many people are on the bridge or how bad the falls were so we had no idea how many patients we would get how

about drowning victims or people in the water you've been told to prepare for any of that kind of stuff well we have one drowning victim here and i believe there are there are more drowning victims at the scene i've never been in bridge collapse before we have uh one of our faculty was at kansas city at the higher high collapse and says that this is very similar to what happened there do you know at any point

01:50:01 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3TNGZvfxPM&t=6601s)

happened there do you know at any point in the night whether it gets to nine o'clock at 10 o'clock 11 o'clock we expected people to just keep coming in through the night or did you reach a point where you realized that probably i think we'll reach a point and uh we're probably rapidly reaching a point where we've seen the most seriously ill patients and the person who died that person died here did they arrive dead i don't have a lot of detail on that because i wasn't involved in the care of that patient but i believe that patient uh uh probably uh did not have vital signs when they arrived and they were pronounced here although i'm not sure i think we had an outstanding response of our emergency medical services from public safety fire police paramedics the various paramedics services in town we have medical directors in emergency medicine that responded from uh north memorial from hcmc from uh from laconia and from elsewhere around so it's a well-organized system that we have drilled many times and it seems to work very well has there been anything to hamper your efforts at all no not really i mean in any any disaster situation the two biggest problems we have are communication and transportation our transportation has worked very well communication is always a problem as you know trying to get information about this is very difficult the people at the scene are too difficult to transmit repeated information so the necessary information is transmitted and well the details will follow and you'll probably be uh reporting more of the details that we have right what sets apart the critical injuries from the non-critical what is the critically injured patient is a patient who has a life threat to one of their body systems either breathing or their heart or blood pressure are they in shock that type of thing about these those that make them critical these patients are critical because of uh potential disruption to

01:52:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3TNGZvfxPM&t=6720s)

uh potential disruption to major organ systems chest injuries head injuries we have a system in place for that but that's not my that's not my charge we have other people in charge of that and they are they have organized uh the first place the children have not i'm not sure how many children i saw one child here i believe most of the children were sent elsewhere we don't know i don't know i don't have information on parents whether parents would separate from their children or not i don't have that information no we have uh we've had plenty of we've had an outstanding response and we have all the people we need right now how many doctors paramedics the nurses well that's a guess we have uh that would be a guess hundreds of paramedics from around the twin cities we have 100 paramedics here our nurses have all been alerted 100 of them the emergency department nurses from the critical care units our whole medical staff was notified we have 25 emergency physicians similar number of surgeons we have internists and other and pediatricians and and other specialties that have responded the blood bank has responded our pathology director for the blood bank is here uh we've had an outstanding broad response from medical staff and the nursing staff how quickly was here on scene how quickly was i on scene where your response needs for uh well we have of course we have an emergency response team all here all the time and by the time the first patients got here we had extra people many extra people here so it was an immediate response i knew about this before it was reported on the tv which he knew pretty quickly we told the people who were in the

01:54:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3TNGZvfxPM&t=6840s)

we told the people who were in the waiting room that if they didn't need immediate care they should leave and come back later uh the number i have is that we have uh 22 yellow which means they have life or they have limb injury or but not immediately life-threatening we had six critical patients and one patient died for the death we believe it was drowning that's what i was told i just slowed down now for initially we took we at this hospital we're taking only critical trauma once we assure that we've taken care of the critical trauma we're taking any patients who they want to send to us the hospital we are our physician and nursing teams

and administrative teams who came in scoured the hospital for available beds moved patients out from critical care areas if they could be moved and freed up several beds for patients enough that we had plenty of room for people at a place that's usually very very busy how many people can we handle we drew we do drills of 25 to 50 casualties but this is a community-wide response so the team's at this we're going to cut in on that press conference because we understand the minneapolis police department is giving its own update let's listen in there is no indication this was anything other than a structural collapse we are investigating investigators have interviewed people who witnessed the events leading up to the bridge collapse people who were there at the time of the bridge collapse and anyone who might have any information about it including people who are being treated for injuries at the hospital and at this point there is nothing just that this was anything other than a structural collapse we will continue to investigate and folks around the city may see our personnel as well as other city

01:56:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3TNGZvfxPM&t=6960s)

see our personnel as well as other city personnel doing sweeps at other bridges this is a precautionary measure you have a lot of people working from various agencies who's orchestrating everyone to go which way and how do people know what they're supposed to be doing sure that's a good question we do have a lot of people here from uh you know medics police fire departments uh the water patrol federal law enforcement is out here assisting us as well uh officers from other jurisdictions we have a command post set up there is one incident commander we work under an incident command system that was developed by the federal government for large-scale incidents just like this um and everyone has a job to do and everyone has a person who's in charge and because they're marching orders we're still searching yes we are still searching the river uh there are boats in the water now looking for anyone who needs to be rescued there have been a number of children who were on the scene during the time of the bridge collapse who have been treated and are being reunited with their family i families answer any more questions about fatalities i don't have numbers for you at this point there will be a press conference with updated information at 8 45 p.m at city hall and keith dolan and mayor rybak will be speaking at that point you were listening to lieutenant amelia huffman there with the minneapolis police department giving us her latest briefing and promising another one from city hall at 8 45 this evening in about 20 minutes or so that we expect at that point then to hear from chief tim dolan as well as mayor ryback and then again from city hall we'll carry that for you in about 20 minutes or so you heard at the top of that press conference there with lieutenant huffman talk about the thought perhaps of terrorism she's trying to quell that concern and that fear homeland security also weighing in as much saying this appears to be a structural collapse and nothing more than that yes and not to be alarmed if

01:58:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3TNGZvfxPM&t=7082s)

than that yes and not to be alarmed if you see them sweeping other bridges because that is just going to be a matter of course that's something you will see them doing after this tragedy that has occurred at the 35 w bridge she did say encouragingly there were a number of children who have been treated from the scene and are reunited with their families which of course is great news but unfortunately it's still too hard to get a grasp on the number of fatalities we heard uh the doctor joseph clinton at hcmc confirmed they have one drowning victim there and six critical patients out of the 15 or so they have seen at hcmc but at this point they still have divers in the water they still have rescue boats on the water trying to figure out uh if there's anyone there to save and trying to get a handle on the number of people who might have died in this collapse we know that greg vandegrift was talking with a couple of people who actually helped victims at the scene and they described that scene in the river of many many cars in the river overturned some that had been collapsed in half but obviously they had helped one man who had gone into the river they had helped in his rescue so it's just too hard for officials to say you can even detect some frustration in the lieutenant's voice because i'm sure they're as frustrated as anyone else that we don't know these numbers yet and we can't reunite everyone with their loved ones and get them the information they need at this moment unfortunately these are the types of tragedies that do take time to sort out and you heard uh before we listened in on the minneapolis police department uh press conference from that doctor joseph clinton uh there at hcmc saying

you know because they're a level one trauma center they are going to see initially only the most uh injured the critical six critical he reported there one of course the drowning victim um and then he also had mentioned that there were perhaps six other children at minimum taken to other hospitals throughout the area their conditions not uh made known to us at this point we had reported earlier according to cnn that there may have been as many as three

02:00:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3TNGZvfxPM&t=7200s)

been as many as three fatalities at this point according to dr clinton we can confirm one right now and again this is going to take some time to sort out another interesting facet of this that we're following most certainly is the fact that there was a group of campers or so it appeared to be who had gone swimming for the day from a camp in south minneapolis a group of children between the ages of what we're told 9 and 12 years old we were told from our joe fryer who was there on the scene that early word was that most of these children appeared to be suffering from only minor physical injuries of course the psychological trauma that accompanies something like this is an entirely different story but this early in the evening this is what we're able to pass along to you and we do want to pass along the hcmc patient information line it is four zero 612-873-3400 you can see it there on your screen again they only have about 15 people at hcmc but joe fryer has been live on the scene for about two and a half hours now and joins us again live what's it look like now joe well julie they have set up a media center where you just heard from lieutenant emilia huffman the spokeswoman for the minneapolis police department um a lot of people are gathering here but at this point you really can't get very seen and they aren't able to confirm any real numbers at this point we do not know how many people were injured we do not know if and if so how many fatalities there are all of those things are still unknown at this point but what we do know is that there will be another news conference shortly in about 15 minutes at city hall with chief dolan and we'd have to guess mayor rt ryback will be there also whether we will get any more information at that point we don't know they're calling this a bridge collapse that's what they're calling it at this point and it is more of a fire rescue operation that's the term that lieutenant huffman gave for the police are here assisting but there are still boats in the water as far as we know searching to see if there's anyone who needs to be rescued obviously they have no way of knowing in

02:02:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3TNGZvfxPM&t=7320s)

obviously they have no way of knowing in advance how many cars are on that bridge they have no way of knowing how many people were in those cars so it's very hard to account for people because we simply don't know how many cars were on the bridge or how many people were in those cars before this happened so they have to continue to search the water to see if they can find anyone any other vehicles any other people anything like that but at this point they say there are quote no substantial numbers as far as fatalities or injuries we also are wondering whether at the time we from what we understand construction crews were working doing surface work on the bridge and from what we understand we're working at the time of this they're still no idea whether any of those construction workers are missing they obviously can try to account for them they should have an idea how many should have been on the bridge at that time and they're working to see if all of those construction workers are accounted for but again they're going to be still searching the river and we plan to get another update from city hall in about 15 minutes so joe you've been there now for about two and a half hours uh share with people who have just tuned in some of the the most striking things you have seen and and heard tonight from the scene what we are hearing from right now are a number of survivors just standing here in the the the so-called media spot the staging areas they like to call it we've run into people who were on the bridge in cars including a family of three a mother father and their daughter who talked about what happened how they fell what they feel was about 40 feet into the water it was certainly jolting to them they say what what saved them was that a number of good samaritans pedestrians bicyclists people who were in the area who immediately came down and came to their aid to help get them out of the vehicle and get them to safety in fact one woman says that uh she tried to collect the names and phone numbers of those people who saved them so she can contact them later when things are less chaotic to try and thank them for what happened we also know that there was a school bus that was on this bridge that also fell a good distance perhaps 35 to 40 feet that bridge was filled

02:04:02 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3TNGZvfxPM&t=7442s)

35 to 40 feet that bridge was filled with dozens perhaps as many as 60 kids who were part of a summer program they were heading back from a day of swimming back to the community program headquarters in south minneapolis from what we understand we've seen a number of those kids who are shaken but not seriously injured they've been reuniting with their families which has been a relief it's possible at least one person on that bus suffered more serious injuries but that has not been confirmed at this time again we still have no idea how many cars were on the bridge at the time this happened we hope to get some more firm numbers in a little bit but it's clearly going to take a while to assess exactly what happened here just a quick note for those who are just joining us you are looking at taped uh pictures of the scene from earlier this evening these are not live pictures when you saw a little bit of a flame there on 35w uh just a couple of moments ago this is also pre-recorded what you're looking at here joe as has mentioned has spoken to several people on the scene involved closely with what has happened tonight and we also spoke with a gentleman who was on the phone with a friend of his who happened to be walking on that bridge while it collapsed listen to what happened and she just told my fiance the bridge i'm on is collapsing i've got to go and uh we haven't heard anything since that yet so i don't really know what's going on um it's just bad and there's a group of kids that were uh pulled off and they were crying when we came down they were just getting pulled out and it just doesn't seem i mean it's a horrible situation and you want to stay out of the cop's way and let them do their job but at the same point in time you want to find out is the person that i care about all right i mean if they heard or they i'd be happy just to know she's hurt right now because that way i know she's alive and they know where she's at

02:06:00 (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3TNGZvfxPM&t=7560s)

they know where she's at wow and i'm sure he is marrying the emotions of so many people tonight who want to know if their friends or loved ones were on or near that bridge when it collapsed at about 605 tonight and if you are just like that gentleman was we can pass along to this patient information hotline once again from hcmc uh who had told us earlier that they have about six or so adults in critical condition they had one drowning fatality here is this phone number here at the bottom of your screen 612 eight seven three thirty four hundred we will be putting it up as often as we can here on television and a reminder of course it is always going to be on our website at kare11.com you will be able to see the latest news on wire as well as any of the contact information that we're able to get for you on television we will put immediately on our website but obviously so many people will just have to sit tight and wait and figure out what these rescue crews and dive teams find in the mississippi river because only about 15 people or so were taken to hcmc

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